

Osaka Mayor and Governors in Kansai Area make deliberate and premeditated about-face.

Stop govt's desperate rush to restart of nuclear plants!

On May 30, the Union of Kansai Governments, which includes seven prefectures and two mayors, issued a statement that allows a "limited" restart of the reactors. We strongly condemn their desperate attempt to promote deadly nuclear power and will continue to fight to stop and abolish all nuclear plants.

The Media reported that it was an about-face by Kansai Area chiefs including Osaka City Mayor Toru Hashimoto, who had been described as one of the toughest critics of nuclear power. In reality, however, the Kansai Economic Federation—the business circle of the Kansai Area—has been consistently funding Hashimoto and Mr. Shuhei Mori, the president of Kansai Electric Power Company (KEPCO). His energy policy “reversion” was apparently premeditated.

The 99% in Japan have already learned from their own experience that the utilities' and the government's narrative on “power shortage” and

“heavy risk of blackout” was a blatant lie; no area in Japan experienced blackouts last winter despite previous threats and despite the fact that no nuclear plants were on line at all except in the Hokkaido Area. Contrary to their own claims, even the most nuclear dependent utility—KEPCO—had enough capacity during the peak winter season.

Principled labor unions, including the Fukushima Prefecture Teachers Union, Doro-Mito, Koriyama Repair and Maintenance Factory Branch of National Railway Workers Union, have organized a spirited fight back against the Nuclear Mafia and neoliberalism. The revival of labor unions strengthened solidarity and changed the power relationship between the 1% and the 99%.

On May 5, all of the 50 available nuclear reactors in Japan ceased their operation. It was a tremendous victory for the 99% in Japan and all over the world.

Direct action in Kitakyushu City blocks debris-carrying trucks for 8 and half hours

May 23 Correspondence from NAZEN Fukuoka (National Conference to Abolish All Nuclear Plants Immediately, Fukuoka Chapter)

KITAKYUSHU CITY—
On Tuesday, May 22, we fought against the “incineration test” of radioactive debris in Kitakyushu City, blocking radioactive debris-carrying trucks.

At 9 AM, six trucks carrying contaminated debris arrived in front of the incineration plant. We immediately threw ourselves on to the trucks. Our car ran into a space between two trucks. The convoy came to a stand



Direct action in Kitakyushu City on May 22 stopped debris carrying trucks for eight and half hours



trucks entered the incineration facility. We believe, however, that our struggle inspired the city residents, people around Japan and all over the world.

Occupation of Kitakyushu City Hall the day before

On Monday, May 21, demonstrators including evacuees from Fukushima, young mothers and famous anti-nuke actor and activist Taro Yamamoto entered Kitakyushu City Hall and occupied the corridor in front of the mayor’s office on the fifth

still.

After a long confrontation, at several minutes past 4 PM, the police rushed us and beat us. The cops even pushed down and trampled a pregnant woman. We sat in front of the convoy arm in arm. The battle continued for around 50 minutes.

Our dosimeter showed 0.6 μSv/h on the rear deck of a truck after unloading the debris.



Mothers protest in the City Hall, May21

At night, with police reinforcement, another 22

floor and the first floor lobby.

3/11 Anniversary Rally in Fukushima Won a Historic Victory Zero Nuke on May 5 Revival of labor unions was and is the key

The first Anniversary Rally of Fukushima Daiichi catastrophe was held on March 11, 2012, in Koriyama City, Fukushima Prefecture, with 16,000 participants and many labor union flags and banners.

reversed the current. The rally eventually adopted the rally’s name “Good Bye Nuke Plants Rally.”

During the preparation for the rally, many co-opted labor unions and other organizations tried to change the feature of the anniversary rally into a mere remembrance and “reconstruction” ceremony; all the words referring to nuclear power plants were attacked and dropped.

However, mothers’ organization and principled labor unions organized a patient and persistent campaign and



3/11 Good Bye Nuke Rally in Koriyama City, Fukushima Prefecture

[Doro-Mito fought back](#) against radiation exposure in their own workplaces and strengthened solidarity on the shop floor and through community outreach. The Koriyama Repair and Maintenance Factory Branch of National Railway Workers Union also struggled against radioactive contamination of the factory and organized a united fight-back. The appeal from their branch to all NRWU branches to join the 3/11 rally in Koriyama inspired many rail workers. NRWU national leadership, who had at first ignored the preparation of the rally, eventually issued a directive to mobilize their members to the rally.

All the speakers of the 3/11 Koriyama rally voiced their anger against the nuclear catastrophe, the nuclear mafia and the government and pledged strong solidarity.

The rally was a great victory right on the spot of the Fukushima catastrophe. It was the victory of the 3/11 Koriyama rally that helped win the intermediate but historic victory of May 5: all the nuclear reactors in Japan ceased power generation.

One of the speeches at the rally

TEPCO and Government must construct evacuees vallyage



Mr Tetsu Sugawara, evacuee from Iidate village

We lost everything in our village—highland vegetables, farmland, cows... We could not abandon our home village and farmland without tears. It is impossible to farm in Iidate any more. We lost our livelihoods.

On March 15 last year, we are exposed to high levels of radiation in Iidate: 44.7 μ Sv/h. Whose responsibility?

TEPCO outrageously argues that the radioactive fallout is *bona vacantia* and therefore TEPCO has no responsible to clean up or pay damages." It is not a force majeure. The government and TEPCO must be accountable for this man made disaster.

News & Documents

Watchdog let utilities justify omitting nuclear plant power supply safety steps

Kyodo Japan Times: Tuesday, June 5, 2012

A newly revealed document shows the Nuclear Safety Commission backed a claim by utilities in a 1992 report that no safety measures were needed to deal with a long-term complete power loss at nuclear plants, illustrating they minimized risk assessments together.

A text written by Tokyo Electric Power Co. was included in the report to revise safety measures compiled by the commission's working group, and in the end no steps were introduced to counter the loss of key electricity-run

reactor cooling functions.

Loss of power was a main cause of the disaster at the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear plant. Three of its six reactors suffered meltdowns after the plant lost most of its power following the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami of March 11, 2011.

At the time, the working group was discussing revising a guideline the commission had endorsed in 1990 that ruled out the need to consider a long period of power loss.

According to newly unveiled materials, the commission's secretariat, at that time part of the Science and Technology Agency, asked utilities in a document dated October 1992 to "write a composition" on why there was no need to consider measures to counter station blackouts lasting longer than 30 minutes.

TEPCO responded that "sufficient safety will be secured" as long as nuclear plants are controlled properly, touching on the reliability of emergency power sources at that time. [read more](#)

71 percent against hastily restarting Oi nuclear plant: Mainichi poll

June 04, 2012(Mainichi Japan)

The Japanese government is set to decide this week to reactive two of the Oi Nuclear Power Plant's reactors in Fukui Prefecture, but

71 percent of respondents to a survey by the Mainichi Shimbun say the government should not rush to restart the idled reactors,

compared with 23 percent who are in favor of an early restart. [read more](#)

Huge risk in No.4 spent fuel pool reported by Tokyo Shinbum reporter from the spot

Rubble hinders decommissioning work at No.4 reactor

May 28, 2012, Asahi Shinbum

Mountains of rubble stand in the way of decommissioning the No. 4 reactor of Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant, part of an unprecedented challenge facing Japan to decommission four crippled reactors.

The No. 4 reactor building was opened to a handful of media organizations on May 26, the first time since the nuclear crisis was triggered following last year's March 11 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami.

A reporter from Tokyo Shinbum described the scene on the fourth floor as looking like that of a "battlefield after being bombed." The wall facing the sea had been blown off in a hydrogen explosion on March 15 of last year.

"Pipes were severely bent," the reporter said. "Steel frames were also twisted and rusted. It was hard for me to believe such a



The fifth floor of the No. 4 reactor building at the Fukushima No.1 nuclear power plant as seen on May 26. The spent fuel rod pool is on the right, covered with a white tarp. (Pool)

thick wall was blown off over a wide area."

A tour of the No. 4 building by media outlets coincided with an inspection by Goshi Hosono, the minister in charge of handling the nuclear disaster.

Experts in and out of Japan say the biggest threat in the No. 4 building is the spent fuel pool, which holds 1,535 fuel assemblies, equivalent to those in three reactors. [read more](#)

Spent Nuclear Fuel Drives Growing Fear Over Plant in Japan

By HIROKO TABUCHI and MATTHEW WALD

May 26, 2012, New York Times

TOKYO — What passes for normal at the Fukushima Daiichi plant today would have caused shudders among even the most sanguine of experts before an earthquake and tsunami set off the world's second most serious nuclear crisis after Chernobyl.

Fourteen months after the accident, a pool brimming with used fuel rods and filled with vast quantities of radioactive cesium

still sits on the top floor of a heavily damaged reactor building, covered only with plastic.

The public's fears about the pool have grown in recent months as some scientists have warned that it has the potential to set off a new catastrophe, now that the three nuclear reactors that suffered meltdowns are in a more stable state, and as frequent

quakes continue to rattle the region.

The worries picked up new traction in recent days after the operator of the plant, Tokyo Electric Power Company, or Tepco, said it had found a slight bulge in one of the walls of the reactor building, stoking fears over the building's safety. [read more](#)

Mainichi uncovers more secret nuclear commission meetings

May 26, 2012 Mainichi Japan

The Japan Atomic Energy Commission (JAEC) held secret "study" meetings on the nuclear fuel cycle project in 2004, internal documents obtained by the Mainichi Shimbun have shown.

The revelations come just days after the Mainichi news team discovered similar secret meetings held over 2011 and early 2012, with the latest on April 24. The government has invested vast sums in the badly delayed nuclear fuel cycle project, which foresees reprocessing of spent nuclear

fuel into MOX fuel to be burned in special reactors.

The 2004 meetings, attended only by those in favor of the project, were held on 10 occasions up to April that year, while the JAEC was working out the current atomic power policy outline.

JAEC Chairman Shunsuke Kondo is quoted in one of the documents as telling attendees at a January 2004 meeting that the panel would immediately stop such meetings if they came to light, demonstrating the commission's desire to cover up

the secret discussions, which documents now show had been going on for some eight years.

Kondo denied that he had said the secret sessions would be stopped if they were exposed.

"We did hold study sessions, but we never distributed a list of issues on the agenda. Instead, we only studied examples of nuclear power policy overseas, and there's no problem with that. I never made such a remark (about halting the sessions), but I told attendees to be careful."

[read more](#)

WHO Coverup Of Fukushima Radiation Is Unscientific Hogwash

By Yoichi Shimatsu, World Exclusive To Rense.com
May 24, 2012

The recently released report titled "Preliminary Dose Estimation from the nuclear accident after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami" is a clumsy attempt by the World Health Organization to downplay

the public-health catastrophe hitting the Japanese people and stalking the world population. To the many skeptics who have already experienced WHO malfeasance, please bear with this brief response to yet another

scandalous cover-up from the Geneva-based international agency.

[read more](#)

US Military Paper expresses "concerns" on Fukushima Daiichi

Stars and Stripes
May 23, 2012, by WYATT OLSON

Concerns grow over stability of Japan nuclear plant

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — As the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant crisis escalated in March 2011, Japan Prime Minister Naoto Kan secretly requested a worst-case scenario from the chairman of the Japan Atomic Energy Commission.

Two weeks later, Kan received a document that projected possible dire consequences for the four reactors damaged as a result of the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami, according to a recent investigatives report by the Rebuild Japan Initiative Foundation, an independent think tank founded to probe the causes

of the plant disaster. Among the risks was a loss of cooling water in Unit 4, which houses most of the plant's spent fuel that is not in secure dry casks. The fuel, if left exposed, would superheat and melt, releasing a massive amount of radiation.

[read more](#)